

It is strongly reported that Germany has entered into an alliance with Belgium, Holland, and Spain.

A battle has been fought in Abyssinia between the Abyssinians and the invading Sudanese Derwishes, when the former were defeated.

February 20th.

A sugar trust, with the object of regulating the prices of sugar, has been formed in America with a capital of 16,000,000 dollars.

The Australian shippers have adopted the report of the committee appointed at a recent meeting, which insists on the abolition of differential rates of freight, recommends the appointment of a standing committee to protect their mutual interests, and refers the dispute with the freight ring to arbitration. The London Chamber of Commerce is now parleying with the Ring.

In International Tariff Bureau to arrange for printing the tariff of the world in four languages, moves in Brussels on March 15th. Colonial delegates will be invited to attend the sittings.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons, the Right Hon. Sir James Ferguson, Foreign Under-Secretary, stated that the Government of Venezuela proposed to refer the dispute with England to arbitration. He further states that no action on the part of the fleet had been ordered.

SYDNEY, February 21st.

The cricket match between Vernon's team and the New South Wales eleven was concluded to-day, and resulted in an easy victory for the Englishmen by eight wickets. The Australians' second innings closed for 252, while the Englishmen made 109 for two wickets. Peel being not out for 52, and Lead not out for 53.

The Premier to-day received a telegram from Sir Samuel Griffith, inviting New South Wales to join the other Australian Governments with whom he had already communicated, to stop the threatened invasion of Chinese from the Northern Territory. Sir Henry Parkes replied immediately, expressing the utmost willingness that the Government of New South Wales should co-operate with the other colonies in checking what appears to be a well devised plan to establish a Chinese colony in Australia.

MELBOURNE, February 21st.

The Premier to-day received a wire from Sir Samuel Griffith, pointing out the injury which would result if the unrestricted immigration of Chinese were permitted at Port Darwin, and urging that the Government of South Australia should be advised to adopt restrictive measures, even though it was found necessary to anticipate the sanction of Parliament. Sir Samuel Griffith does not indicate what course is desirable, therefore his telegram is regarded simply of value as indicating the objection of Queensland to the influx of Chinese into Australia.

LONDON, February 21st.

The Prince of Wales is now at San Remo. The British Government intend to revive the Department of Agriculture.

Baron De Worms will continue to act as President of the International Sugar Bounties Commission.

The Roumanian Parliament was opened yesterday by the King in person. In his opening speech His Majesty advised the strengthening of the military forces.

The latest news from San Remo is to the effect that the Crown Prince has been attacked with violent coughing, and that it is feared that inflammation of the lungs has set in.

Intense excitement prevails at Berlin in consequence of the condition of the Crown Prince. Sir Morell Mackenzie disagrees with the German doctors in their treatment of the wound in the Prince's throat.

Sir Henry Holland has pressed Sir Charles Mitchell, Governor of Fiji, to take steps to accelerate the return of the Wesleyans deported from Tonga during the late religious persecutions. He also expressed the hope that the oppression there would now cease.

Most of the Australian Agents-General have announced their intention of attending the Tariff Bureau at Bressels.

February 22nd.

The Anglo-American Fisheries Treaty provides for the appointment of a mixed commission to delimit the Canadian-Newfoundland waters, which the Americans renounced by treaty in 1818. The right of Americans to fish at disputed points is to be referred to arbitration. The Republican Senators oppose the ratification of the treaty, chiefly on the ground that a tonnage tax is imposed on American vessels trading with Canada.

Sir Henry Holland, after consulting with Sir Charles Mitchell in April next, will decide upon what steps to take to assist the Wesleyans in Tonga.

Late news from Massowah states that smart outpost engagements have taken place between the Italians and the Abyssinians at Laati.

Twenty seven trains conveying Russian troops, entered Bessarabia yesterday.

PARIS, February 22nd.

It is considered probable that M. Tirard, the French Premier, will be ousted from office on the Secret Service vote in the Chamber of Deputies.

ADELAIDE, February 28th.

The Honorable the Premier has received a telegram from Sir S. W. Griffiths, the Premier of Queensland, stating that great alarm exists in that colony about the southward movement of the Chinese from Port Darwin, and impresses upon the Government of South Australia the necessity and importance of restriction under the present laws, pending further legislation. He advises that the S. A. Parliament should be summoned immediately, to enact restrictive measures, and thus earn the gratitude of the whole of Australia.

A public meeting on the Chinese question was held at Port Augusta on Saturday. Resolutions were carried asking the Premier to immediately take steps to prevent further immigration, and also pledging themselves to support only those candidates for election to the Legislative Council who promised to support a prohibitive poll-tax. The Cabinet is still considering the question but no decision has yet been arrived at or published.

March 1st.

The action taken by the residents in the Northern Territory, on the Chinese question has been thoroughly aroused the attention of all Australia. The Presidents of the Trades and Labour Councils of Victoria, Tasmania, and South Australia, who are now attending the annual conference at Brisbane interviewed Sir Samuel W. Griffiths yesterday, and emphasized the great danger to Australia, that lies ahead, if the matter is not vigorously dealt with by the colonies jointly. Sir Samuel replied, regretting the lagging and lukewarmness of South Australia on the Chinese question, he feared that should Chinese would arrive while the matter was under discussion.

The Premier of South Australia telegraphed to all the colonies yesterday, that the executive had decided to impose a poll-tax of ten pounds per head on all Chinese arriving at or proceeding more than 200 miles southward from Port Darwin, overland, and also that all the ports in China and its dependencies, the Malay peninsula, Singapore, Netherlands-India and its dependencies, and Timor were declared to be infected ports, and all vessels arriving therefrom would be quarantined for twenty-one days. The countries interested were also similarly advised. The poll-tax is imposed subject to the sanction of the Parliament.

WILL THERE BE WAR THIS YEAR?

The present year is the fifth year of modern times in which the aggregate of the figures is twenty-five, and there will be but five more years in which such a combination is possible prior to the year 2599. Probably few have ever heard of the old prophecy which reads as follows:—

In every future year of our Lord,
When there shall be five in twenty five,
Some warlike kingdom will draw the sword,
But peaceful nations in peace shall thrive.

Students of modern history will readily recall how faithfully this prophecy has been fulfilled in the four previous years to which it applied.

In 1699 Russia, Denmark and Poland formed the coalition against Sweden which inaugurated the great war that ended in the disastrous defeat of Charles XII. at Poltava.

The year 1799 will ever be memorable on account of the breaking out of the French Revolution.

The year 1798 witnessed the campaign of Bonaparte in Egypt and the formation of the second European coalition against France.

In 1879 war broke out between England and Afghanistan, followed by the invasion of the latter country by British troops.

In what manner the prediction is to be verified in 1888 remains yet to be seen, but the present condition of Europe seems to promise an abundant fulfillment of the prophecy.

POPULAR SCIENCE.

VARIOUS BITS OF INFORMATION PICKED UP HERE AND THERE.

Copper is said to lose 18 per cent of its tenacity by being raised from 60 deg. to 360 deg.

An English invention relates to set squares for draughtsmen having one of the edges beveled at various angles.

The Medical Record says that expired air is optically pure and contains no microbes. Respiration, therefore, purifies air as far as microbes are concerned.

The use of steel castings is becoming so extended in England as to alarm the iron founders who see their prospects for work slipping away from them.

The problem of obtaining electric energy from carbon without heat is quite an interesting subject for occasional discussion among electrical engineers.

It is admitted by foreign electricians that the progress made in the United States in the utilization of electricity is far in advance of that of any other nation.

Rutgers is to have a school of electricity and an improved Scientific Department. The college has received \$15,000 by a recent Act of Congress for experimental stations.

Chemists have just determined by careful experiment that a man can barely taste 3,100,000ths of a grain of sugar, 3,100,000ths of a grain of salt and 5,100,000ths of a grain of strychnine.

A Dr. Freund of Vienna proposes to cure cancerous patients by reducing the quantity of sugar in their blood, his theory being that cancer is caused by the presence of an abnormal quantity of sugar.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat thinks that in view of the tremendous strides that electricity is making as a street railway motor we shall travel at a speed of 100 miles an hour within the next ten years.

A physician lecturing upon physical exercise declared that if only twenty minutes a day should be spent in physical exercise as an adjunct to mental education, we might live to be seventy without a day's illness, and perhaps prolong our lives to one hundred years.

A non-speaking telephone is exhibited at Pittsburgh. A sensitive plate presses against the larynx and glands of the neck, and as the jaws are moved in conversation the motion sends the words along the wire as distinctly as the telephone now in use.

Dr. Voisin relates the case of a girl, eleven years of age, who was a most inveterate and persistent liar, and whom he cured completely of this reprehensible habit by means of hypnotism. Here is a grand field of usefulness opened before this young science.

A new thing out is a clock with ordinary works that will run for a year without attention. An electric battery concealed in the case winds up the clock from day to day, or week to week, as the need may be. Once in a great while the battery must be renewed, but that is all the care the clock calls for.

An inventive German has devised a coffin for the convenience of those who have a dread of being buried alive. It is provided with a valve, by means of which fresh air is admitted in quantity sufficient to support life; and there is an arrangement of wires, by means of which the least movement of the body sets an electric bell ringing.

A Swiss watchmaker has made a new application of electricity in the invention of an illuminator for watch dials, whereby one in the dark can tell the hour with ease. A small electric lamp is fitted in the watch case where it will light up the dial when, by touching the case with a chain, connection is established through the chain with a small battery carried in the watch-pocket.

In the opinion of competent authority the chloroforming of a person without disturbing slumber is a practical impossibility. The density of the vapor, the strong pungent odor and the irritation caused by breathing chloroform at first, combine to make it an impossibility for a person to pass from a natural sleep into a state of anaesthesia.

It has been stated that a good temper for cutting tools may be obtained by plunging the tool, heated for hardening, into boiling water, letting it remain there until cold. The tool is to be ready for work without further treatment. The above sounds pretty well, and it will cost nothing to try, even if it prove a failure.

It has been stated that since the sunflower has been cultivated on certain swamps of the Potomac malarial fever has decreased. At the mouth of the Scheldt, in Holland, it is stated that similar results have been observed. The sunflower emits large volumes of water in the form of vapor, and its aromatic odor, as well as the oxygen it exhales, may have something to do with the sanitary influence in question.

Americans of the middle and upper classes, i. e., those who can afford to get their lives insured—are healthier and longer-lived than Englishmen. Such is the result arrived at from a study of the life-insurance statistics of both countries, covering the period of years since 1874. The twenty expectation of life of American males is 42.7 years; of English males, 41.1; of American females it is 48 years, which is precisely the same as that of English women. After the age of twenty the expectation of life among American women slightly exceeds that of English women, up to the age of forty-seven. After the age of thirty-five the expectation of life of English women is better than that of Englishmen, but in America women have a 6.0 lower expectation rate than men.

Today's Advertisements.

FOR NEW YORK, VIA SUEZ CANAL.

THE Steamship "CLAYMORE,"
Craig, Commander, will be despatched for the above Port, on or about the 11th proximo.
For Freight or Passage, apply to
ADAMSON, BELL & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, 22nd March, 1888. [212]

TO LET.

A COMMODIOUS SUIT OF OFFICES in the ICE HOUSE BUILDINGS.
Apply to
G. C. ANDERSON,
13, Praya Central.
Hongkong, 22nd March, 1888. [332]

VICTORIA LODGE,
No. 1026.

A REGULAR MEETING of the above named Lodge will be held in FREEMASONS' HALL, Zetland Street, on WEDNESDAY, the 28th instant, at 8.30 for 9 P.M. precisely.
Hongkong, 22nd March, 1888. [333]

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE CHINESE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
NOTICE is hereby given that the SEVENTEENTH ORDINARY MEETING of the SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company, will be held at the Head Office, Victoria, Hongkong, at Noon, TO-MORROW, the 23rd instant, to receive the Report of Directors, to either with the Statement of Accounts to 31st December, 1887.

THE TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 10th to the 23rd instant, both days inclusive.
By Order of the Board,
SAMUEL J. GOWER,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 9th March, 1888. [285]

THE CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.
THE FIFTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Office of the Company, Praya Central, TO-MORROW, the 23rd March, at THREE O'CLOCK in the Afternoon for the purpose of receiving the Report of the General Managers, declaring a Dividend, and Electing a Consulting Committee and Auditors.

THE TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from 9th to 23rd instant, both days inclusive.
RUSSELL & Co.,
General Managers.
Hongkong, 6th March, 1888. [272]

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED.
ADJUSTMENT OF BONUS FOR THE YEAR 1887.

CONTRIBUTORS to the above Office are requested to furnish the Undersigned with a List of their Contributions for the year ending 31st December, 1887, in order that the Distribution of BONUS may be arranged. Returns not rendered prior to the 31st day of March instant, will be adjusted by the Office, and no Claims or Alterations will be subsequently admitted.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Agents,
CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED.
Hongkong, 1st March, 1888. [252]

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.
NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

CONTRIBUTING SHAREHOLDERS are requested to send in a Statement of Business Contributed during the Half-Year ended 31st December, 1887, on or before the 31st inst., on which date the Accounts will be closed.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
D. GILLIES,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 15th March, 1888. [306]

NOW READY,
[PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.]

"THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND HONG LIST FOR THE FAR EAST" FOR 1888.

THIS Valuable Work, with many NEW ADDITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS, IS NOW READY.

PRICE THREE DOLLARS.
Orders for Copies of THE "HONGKONG DIRECTORY" may be sent to the following Agents:—

HONGKONG.—Mr. W. Drew.
Messrs. F. Blackhead & Co.
Messrs. Heuermann, Herbst & Co.
Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Limited.
Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co.
Messrs. MacLewen, Frickel & Co.
MACAO.—Messrs. A. A. de Mello & Co.
CANTON.—Mr. M. P. da Silva.
SWATOW.—Messrs. Quelch & Co.
AMOI.—Mr. N. Meale.
FOOCHOW.—Messrs. Hodge & Co.
SHANGHAI.—Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Limited.
HANKOW.—Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Limited.
YOKOHAMA.—Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Limited.
SINGAPORE.—Messrs. Sayle & Co., Limited.
PARIS.—Messrs. Amédée Prince & Co.
LONDON.—Messrs. Amédée Prince & Co.

OR TO
"THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" OFFICE,
Pedder's Hill, Hongkong,
16th January, 1888.

Intimations.

SOCIÉTÉ FRANÇAISE DES CHARBONNAGES DU TONKIN.

(SOCIÉTÉ ANONYME).

CAPITAL.....FRANCS 4,000,000
DIVIDED INTO 8,000 SHARES OF
FRANCS 500 EACH.

THIS Société is being formed for the purpose of working the COAL MINES at HALONG BAY, TONKIN, under a concession granted by the French Government in Tonkin to Monsieur BAVIER CHAUFFOUR as per Acts dated 1st August, 1887, and the 5th day of August, 1887.

The COAL MINES cover an area of about 15,000 Hectares, and the Concession will be conveyed to the Société by the Concessionnaire as soon as the Société is formed.

Of the 8,000 SHARES, 4,000 are offered for public subscription, at par, on the 22nd and 23rd days of March, 1888, and the amount thereof is payable on application.

Forms of application can be obtained from M. BAVIER CHAUFFOUR, 7, Queen's Road Central, to whom the same must be returned when filled up and signed, and where also the Articles of Association of the Société in formation can be obtained by the intending Shareholders.

Payment for Shares applied for must be made to the COMPTOIR D'ESCOMPTES DE PARIS, Hongkong, as Agents for the BANQUE DE L'INDO CHINE, who will grant Receipts for same.
Hongkong, 20th March, 1888. [327]

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.
THE FIFTH PRIZE MEETING will be held at Kowloon, on FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, the 30th and 31st March, 1888.

M-O-N-D-A-Y, the 2nd April, 1888.

For Members and All Comers over \$1,200 will be given in Prizes.

THE SHOOTING will commence each day at 10 A.M.

Programmes and Entry Forms can be obtained from the Undersigned on and after MONDAY, the 26th March, 1888.

A. SHELTON HOOPER,
Hon. Secretary.
Hongkong, 20th March, 1888. [324]

THE HONGKONG AMATEUR ATHLETIC SPORTS, TO BE HELD ON THE CRICKET GROUND, on SATURDAY, the 7th April.

The following is the List of Events, viz.:—
1.—100 YARDS FLAT RACE, 2 prizes.
2.—PUTTING THE SHOT, 2 prizes.
3.—120 YARDS HANDICAP, 2 prizes.
4.—HIGH JUMP, 1 prize.
5.—QUARTER MILE FLAT RACE, 2 prizes.
6.—ONE MILE WALKING RACE, 1 prize.
7.—THROWING CRICKET BALL, 1 prize.
8.—POLE JUMPING, 1 prize.
9.—SOLDIERS' HALF MILE RACE, 3 prizes.
10.—HAZY MILE RACE, (Handicap), 2 prizes.
11.—120 YARDS HURDLE RACE, 2 prizes.
12.—BOYS' RACE, 200 YARDS (Handicap) for Boys under 15, open to European Schools, 3 prizes.
13.—VETERANS' FLAT RACE, 120 YARDS (Handicap). Open to all 35 years old and of 10 years residence in India, China, or the Tropics, 2 prizes.
14.—LONG JUMP, 1 prize.
15.—THREE-LEGGED RACE, 1 prize.
16.—SMALL GIRLS' RACE, (Handicap) under 7 years, 3 prizes.
17.—220 YARDS FLAT RACE, (Handicap), 2 prizes.
18.—ONE MILE FLAT RACE, 2 prizes.
19.—CANTONISATION RACE, 1 prize.
20.—INTER-NATIONAL TUG OF WAR, 1 prize.

With the exception of Events No. 9, 12 and 16, the above are open to all Gentlemen Amateurs who are members or visitors of the HONGKONG CLUB, CLUB GERMANIA, LADIES RECREATION CLUB, HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB, VICTORIA RECREATION CLUB, and also to commissioned Military and Naval Officers.

Intending competitors are requested to send in their entries (on the proper forms, which can be obtained at the HONGKONG CLUB, CRICKET CLUB PAVILION, V. R. C. Messrs. KELLY & WALSH, MESSRS. LANE, CRAWFORD & CO., and MESSRS. FAULCONER & CO.) to the Hon. Secretary, not later than SATURDAY, the 31st inst., on which date entries close.

CHAS. H. THOMPSON,
Hon. Sec.
Hongkong, 17th March, 1888. [315]

IMPORTANT NOTICE.
KUHN & CO.

ARE NOW SELLING OFF THEIR FINE ART COLLECTION, consisting of a CHOICE AND VALUABLE ASSORTMENT of JAPANESE BRONZES, CLOISONNE, IVORY, LAQUER, SILK AND SATIN KIMMOS, KAKIMMOS, SCREENS, DRESSING-GOWNS AND JACKETS, QUILTS, WALL DECORATIONS, BRONZE JEWELLERY, SWORDS, COMPLETE SUITS OF ANTIQUE ARMOUR, etc., etc.

TO AVOID THE COST OF RE-SHIPMENT THE ENTIRE STOCK IS NOW OFFERED AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

MESSRS. KUHN & Co. in thanking the residents of Hongkong, Canton, and Macao for their liberal patronage, regret to state that, owing to the opening of a Branch House in London, where Mr. KUHN'S presence is an absolute necessity, they are compelled to temporarily close their Hongkong establishment; but due notice will be given of the resumption of business. Meanwhile all orders sent to KUHN & Co., YOKOHAMA, will receive the most careful attention.

THE PUBLIC are respectfully notified that the present sale of the most complete collection of WORKS OF JAPANESE ART ever offered in Hongkong at such low prices will be limited to the current month.

KUHN & Co., opposite the Hongkong Hotel.
Hongkong, 17th March, 1888. [313]

AND R. TENNENT'S ALE AND PORTER.

DAVID CORSAIR & SONS' MERCHANT NAVY BOILER LAGO PLANT CANVAS.

ARNHOLD, KARBURG & Co., Hongkong, 17th March, 1888. [603]

Intimations.

NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given that if the sums hereinafter mentioned are not CLAIMED within one year from this date, they will be transferred to the GENERAL REVENUE of this Colony.

In the matter of the TRUST ESTATE of DANT & Co. 1.—Balance due to ALEXANDER COWIE, Master of the ship or vessel Aurora.....\$5,879 65

2.—Balance due to HENRY MANN, Master of the ship or vessel Waterwitch.....78 15

3.—Balance due to J. COOPER.....469 19

In the matter of JACKY alias THOMAS JOHN ROWLAND, amount to credit of this account.....2,281 57

EDW. J. ACKROYD, Registrar.
Supreme Court, Hongkong, 17th March, 1888. [328]

NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given that if the sums mentioned in Schedules A and B of Ordinance No. 11 of 1888, copies of which have been posted up in the Supreme Court and published in the Government Gazette of the 17th March, 1888, are not CLAIMED within six months, from date hereof, they will be paid over to the GENERAL REVENUE of the Colony.

The sums mentioned in Schedule C, to the said Ordinance, a copy of which has been posted and published, will also be paid over to the Treasury if not CLAIMED within one year from the said date.

EDW. J. ACKROYD, Registrar.
Registry Supreme Court, Hongkong, 17th March, 1888. [329]

POSTPONEMENT.
HAMILTON COMEDY SEASON.

In consequence of Miss FORD'S medical adviser having forbidden her to appear on the stage for some time, Mr. HAMILTON begs to announce that no further performances can be given until the conclusion of the Shanghai Season.

Hongkong, 21st March, 1888. [330]

SARAWAK GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

TENDERS will be received up to 9 A.M., on MONDAY, the 16th April, 1888, for RENTING the following FARMS for THREE YEARS, from 1st July, 1888, viz:—

1.—THE OPIUM FARM of the Territory of Sarawak, from Tanjong Datu to and inclusive of the Batam River, a distance of 370 miles.

2.—THE GAMING FARM, from Tanjong Datu to and inclusive of the Sadong River.

3.—Tenders must be written in English and forwarded in Sealed Covers addressed to the Honourable the Resident of Sarawak, Kuching, Sarawak.

4.—Tenders for each FARM SEPARATELY, and a Tender for the THREE FARMS COLLECTIVELY, are required.

5.—The Government does not bind itself to accept the highest or any Tender.

6.—The successful Tenderer or Tenderers will be required to find security for the due fulfilment of his or their Contracts.

7.—For further information apply to A. L. JOHNSTON & Co., Agents in Singapore for the SARAWAK GOVERNMENT, or to the RESIDENT OFFICE, Kuching, Sarawak.

F. O. MAXWELL, Administering the Government.
Resident's Office, Kuching, Sarawak, 1st January, 1888. [202]

THE CHINA AND JAPAN TELEPHONE COMPANY, LIMITED.

13, PRAYA CENTRAL, HONGKONG.

LIST of Subscribers to the TELEPHONE EXCHANGE.

1.—"Hongkong Telegraph" Office.
2.—Manson, Dr. P. M.D.
3.—Cantlie, Dr. Wm.
4.—Hartigan, Dr. Wm.
5.—Manson, Dr. P. M.D. (Peak).
6.—Vernon, J. V. V.
7.—Cantlie, Dr. J.
8.—Poesnecker, L.
9.—Arnhold, Karberg & Co.
10.—Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.
11.—Chatter and Vernon.
12.—Judd, Wm. (Woodlands).
13.—Daily Press.
14.—Russell & Co.
15.—E. E. A. and China Telegraph Co., Ltd.
16.—Great Northern Telegraph Co.
17.—Central Police Station.
18.—Watson, A. S. & Co., Ltd.
19.—Douglas Lapraik & Co.
20.—Butterfield and Swire.
21.—P. & O. Steam Navigation Co.
22.—Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.
23.—"China Mail."
24.—Jordan, Dr. G. P.
25.—Hongkong and China Gas Co., Ltd.
26.—Aberdeen Dock.
27.—Alice Memorial Hospital.
28.—McEwen, A. F.
29.—Kau Lung Tai, merchant, Jervois Street.
30.—Gibb, Livingston & Co.
31.—The Hongkong Hotel, Public Telephone.
32.—Siting Kee, Merchant, Mercer Street.
33.—Victoria Dispensary.
34.—Cruickshank, Wm.
35.—Lai Chee, Merchant, Manham Street.
36.—Ah Yon & Co., 80, Praya Central.
37.—Lui, H. Z.
38.—Linstead & Davis.
39.—Foster, F. T. P.
40.—The Borneo Co., Ltd.
41.—Adamson, Bell & Co.
42.—Dodwell, F.
43.—Jordan, Dr. G. P., Pedder's Street.
44.—Government House.
45.—Hughes & Ern.
46.—Bellios & Co.
47.—Bellios, E. R., Caine Road.
48.—Do, Victoria Peak.
49.—Carlson & Co.
50.—The Imports and Exports Office.

Subscription to Exchange \$30 per Annum

Intimations

NOTICE.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.

HAVE JUST RECEIVED THEIR ANNUAL SUPPLY

LAWN GRASS SEED

and

SWEET CORN,

for immediate sowing.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,

Hongkong, 2nd March, 1888.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1888.

THE DOCK COMPANY.

(Continued.)

ANOTHER egregious error on the part of the Board of Directors was the determination to make Kowloon at all costs a rival of home ship-building yards. Elated with the unprecedented results achieved by the Company in consequence of the long drawn out series of marine disasters already referred to, and victims of some extraordinary delusion that the construction of new steamers in Hongkong was to become as much a regular business as it is on the Clyde or Thames, the Board resolved to completely revolutionise the entire Kowloon system which had in the past proved such a safe and reliable source of revenue. The idea was to re-construct almost the entire establishment, and with the latest and most costly machinery and other dock-yard appliances, and by more than doubling the European staff, to place the Company—by the use of the Directors' own words—in a position to undertake the building of the largest class of vessels and to execute promptly the heaviest repairs. The somewhat important question as to where the orders to build "the largest class of vessels" were to come from in this part of the world, appears never to have entered into the calculations of these "wise men of the East;" however, the scheme has been carried out, at what cost and with what results so far we shall presently see.

In the Report issued to the shareholders in August 1881, it is announced that "the plant and machinery at all the establishments are in perfect working order, and the Directors look forward with confidence to continued prosperity." At this time it is quite evident that the Kowloon transformation scene had never entered the heads of the Directors, and there would appear to be very little doubt that the suggestion originally came from Mr. GILLIES, the Company's Secretary, who was then at home on a well-earned leave of absence after many years residence in Hongkong. At the beginning of 1881 the entire Kowloon establishment stood in the Company's books at \$103,873.94; in the last Report issued it is set down at \$64,479.88, or an increase of nearly a quarter of a million of dollars, and during these past seven years the large sum of \$340,000 has been written off the value of the docks, plant and machinery. So that, roughly speaking, the Directors have expended in improvements, chiefly at Kowloon, since the Secretary's visit to the Scotch and English ship-building yards, no less a sum than \$580,000, exclusive of the three quarters of a million already sunk in the Admiralty Dock. And all this time the Company has been up to the neck in debt, in amounts ranging from \$360,000 in December, 1881, to over a million dollars in December, 1887. How the Directors will defend such a suicidal financial policy as this, they will probably have an opportunity of explaining at no far distant date.

It must be frankly admitted that both Kowloon and Sam-sui-poo have been vastly improved. The resolve to place Kowloon on a par with leading ship-building and engineering establishments at home, so far as machinery, plant and other appliances could effect that object, has been substantially carried out; but the necessity, the advisability of those wholesale and expensive improvements has yet to be demonstrated and justified by practical results. That has not yet been done; in fact the Company's published reports are incontrovertible evidence to the contrary. If the plant and machinery at all the establishments—vide Report—were in perfect order in the summer of 1881, it is a marvellous thing that they should have become so imperfect and inadequate as to require the expenditure of close upon six hundred thousand dollars in the short space of seven years. We opine that the shareholders of the Company were satisfied with that plant, machinery and hard-working staff that made the docks a paying concern, and

were not anxious to have an expensive model engineering establishment laid down at Kowloon as one of the sights of the colony, merely to gratify the views of certain gentlemen who are either twenty years behind or half a century before the times we live in. For the six hundred thousand dollars expended in these improvements the shareholders were promised, in addition to many other things, greater efficiency in the character of the work performed and a considerable reduction in the heavy cost of labour. To cheapen the cost of production was the Board's justification for this heavy expenditure. And in one Report, that of January to June 1884, we are told triumphantly "that the most marked increase of the revenue is that derived from the construction of new vessels, a large number of which have been built at Kowloon; with the improvements and new machinery that are now being introduced for shipbuilding purposes and for the heaviest class of forgings, the Directors are sanguine that contracts can be carried out by the Company on terms comparing favorably with home rates." If this were really feasible, it is pertinent to ask why the Dock Company's tender for the building of the river steamer *Fatshan* was about twice the amount of any home tender, and considerably more than double what was actually paid for the vessel's construction? But with all due respect to the Board of Directors, it will be quite impossible to compete favorably in this colony with home prices so long as the iron, steel, etc., required in the construction of steamers have to be shipped out here, with all the attendant expenses of freight, loss of time, etc., and for many other reasons which will at once suggest themselves to practical men. Again, it reads well in the Reports that "the Company are now in a position to undertake the building of the largest class of vessel," and it may flatter the self-esteem of the Directors to hear effusive post-prandial orators boast of Kowloon's capacity to construct anything from an ironclad down to a boat; but will this sort of thing stand investigation? Admitting that Kowloon possesses all the facilities claimed, we have merely again to ask who are likely to require the construction of ironclads and the largest class vessels in this part of the world—to a sufficient extent to find anything like remunerative occupation for an establishment which represents to the shareholders something not far short of two millions of dollars? All this is the merest nonsense, and the sooner it is recognised that the revenue of the Dock Company almost entirely depends on docking vessels, effecting repairs to boilers and machinery, and in occasionally building small steamers and steam launches, the better will it be for all concerned. It would be interesting to know the amount of the net profits realised by the Dock Company on the whole of the larger class of vessels launched at Kowloon, such as the light-ship and the paddle steamer built for the Straits Settlements.

There is one more point in connection with this branch of the subject which requires attention, and we will deal with it briefly. Have all these improvements in machinery and appliances effected the important object primarily aimed at—have they substantially reduced the cost of production? If they have not, it will probably be conceded that it would have been to the advantage of the Company had these sweeping and costly changes been delayed until circumstances more clearly warranted their wholesale adoption, or at all events until the financial condition of the Company warranted such a heavy outlay. The Directors' Reports will afford us the information we seek. Let us go back to the days when the Cosmopolitan Dock, Sands Ship, McDonald's Ship, and Inglis & Co. were in opposition, when the rates charged for docking, etc., were about one third of what they are at the present day—let us take the first Report signed by Mr. GILLIES as Secretary of the Dock Company. It is dated the 28th February, 1876, and has the following:—"The Directors are disappointed with the small amount of net gain shown on so considerable a sum of gross earnings, and they are giving the workings of the business very special attention with a view to a reduction in the cost of labour, and a greater economy generally in the Company's establishments." In this statement Kowloon stands at \$376,000, including \$16,000 for the tug *Pilot Fish*, steam launches, lighters and boats, and the gross earnings amounted to \$290,245.30 and the net profits to \$30,907.87. For the half-year ended June 30th, 1887, when Kowloon grossed in the books \$622,922.04, the gross receipts totalled \$839,920.27 and the net profits \$119,195.29. It will be remembered that at a meeting of shareholders held on August 29th, 1887, a question was asked regarding the two amounts last quoted, to which the Chairman (Mr. C. D. BORTOLUZZI) replied—"Referring to what Mr. FRASER SMITH has said with regard to the profits,

it seems to me that there is not really a great difference in comparison with past years. I have consulted Mr. GILLIES, and I find that the years quoted by Mr. FRASER SMITH were years when there were very large profits and no new works." On this ruling, our comparison between the cost of production in 1876, an unusually bad half year, when rates were low and an active opposition in existence, and in 1887, with high rates, no opposition, and half a million dollars worth of new and improved machinery, is especially significant. And what does it show? It is a question of simple proportion and the percentage in favor of the later period is so relatively small as to be, under all circumstances, perfectly astounding. But to make a still fairer comparison let us take the latter half of the year 1881, when no opposition existed, but before the introduction of the new machinery. The figures were—gross earnings \$575,757.19, and net profits \$104,550.01. Let those interested in Docks compare these returns with the similar statistics for the first six months of 1887, and then try to place a value on the reduction in "the cost of production" effected by the expenditure of half a million dollars in making Kowloon a model dock-yard.

(To be concluded.)

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter.)

LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT.

LONDON, March 20th.
In the House of Commons, Mr. Ritchie, President of the Local Government Board, introduced the bill for local self government.

It proposes to have elective county councils in the large towns invested with full powers locally, including those of licensing, and similar separate councils in London elected by the County with a Lord Lieutenant, and the abolition of the Board of Works.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE French gunboat *Aspie*, Commander Malpert, arrived this morning from Quinlon.

THE latest instance of Yankee enterprise is contained in the fact that a New York life insurance agent has opened an office in Jerusalem.

A REGULAR meeting of Victoria Lodge, No. 1026, will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zeland Street, on Wednesday, the 28th inst., at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

THE Rev. J. E. Tegison-Woods has been awarded the "Clarke" medal from the Royal Society of New South Wales for services to the sciences of geology and mineralogy. He has also received a gold medal from the King of Holland.

OF the 263 Popes whom the Roman Church of the present day recognizes as the legitimate successors of St. Peter, only sixteen have celebrated their jubilee as priests, as the consecrated Bishops of Rome, beginning with John XII, in 956.

WHEN you compliment woman, make a thorough job of it, as in this instance on the part of the *Baltimore American*.—"In all the history of the human race woman was never so charming, never so beautiful and never so useful as she is to-day. She has developed with civilization and advanced with progress until her power has penetrated every department of the world's work. It is difficult to find any sphere of business activity in which she is not an important factor."

THERE are in France 279,270 apartments, providing accommodation for over three hundred thousand persons, which rooms are entirely destitute of any other means of admitting air and light than by the door. In Paris alone the number of families thus lodged reaches a total of 27,386. There are in London over sixty thousand families who live in cellars under the most unfavorable conditions as regards salubrity. In Berlin there are 39,000 families who occupy only portions of rooms, often with a sort of shelf on which father, mother and children sleep, one over the other.

It is said that when Madame Bernhardt was studying for a play in which she had to die of consumption, she used to visit the Paris hospitals and study realism in the consumption wards. At last, one afternoon, while she was passing through one of the wards, a young girl, dying and delirious, rose to a sitting posture in the bed, and, shaking her finger toward the actress, cried: "Look there! There comes again that dreadful woman! She is death itself! Whoever she goes we die! Whenever she looks at one of us, that is the end! Take her away! Take her away!" and with a shriek the woman fell dead. The Bernhardt visited the hospitals no more.

HERE are a few samples of the wisdom of Uncle Esau.—"Genius invents, talent applies. Faith won't enable a man to lift a ton all at once; but it will, ten pounds at a time. When you have learned to listen you have already acquired the rudiments of a good education. I have never seen an idea too big for a sentence, but I have read thousands of sentences too big for an idea. You may travel a good way on whisky, and travel fast while you are going, but you can't get back when you want to. 'Vanity and jealousy are the two weakest passions in the human heart,' and, strange to tell, they are the most common. 'A thoroughly neat woman is a joy unspeakable, but doesn't she make it busy for the dust and the people in her neighbourhood?' My young disciple, don't hunt for new things, but study to improve upon the old ones, every flat stone, and most of the boulders, have been turned over already by the poverty-hunters."

THE P. & O. Company's extra steamer *Zambesi*, from Bombay, left Singapore for this port on the 20th inst. at 4 p.m.

THE British Roman Catholic Directory for 1888 states that there are now in England and Wales 4314 priests, as against 1,728 in 1875, serving 1,304 churches, chapels and missionary stations. In Scotland there are 5 Bishops and 334 priests, serving 327 chapels, churches and stations. The estimated Roman Catholic population of the United Kingdom is: England and Wales, 1,354,000; Scotland, 326,000; Ireland, 3,961,000. Total—5,641,000.

ACCORDING to a writer in the *Contemporary Review*, Austria-Hungary has nine high schools of commerce, eleven intermediate schools, and forty-two schools intended principally for clerks. In Italy the subject of commercial education is receiving careful attention. The system of bifurcation commences immediately after a child has left the elementary school. Those intended for industrial pursuits pass on to the technical school and thence to the technical institute. Others pass through the corresponding classical schools to the university. The technical institute contains three or more separate departments, in which the instruction is specialized with a view to different branches of industry. There are sixty-five technical institutes in Italy, in many of which there is a department entirely devoted to commercial education. In Belgium there are numerous middle schools, the object of which is to prepare youths for commercial pursuits. The fact that the children of the middle classes are destined for, the most part, to earn their livelihood in trade or commerce is recognized in the general scheme of intermediate education adopted in Belgium, and the course of school studies is arranged accordingly.

THE *Independence* in referring to the late piracy case in Macao, deprecates the abolition of capital punishment in the Portuguese colonies. It is alleged that the Chinese pirates, when apprehended by the Macao authorities, are invariably extradited to Canton at the request of the Viceroy and there decapitated without any more ado.

To avoid extradition these wily depredators resort to a measure which is quite in keeping with their habits—they murder the police who apprehend them, and thus become prisoners of the Portuguese Government. As there is no capital punishment in Macao, these murderers are exiled to Timor where they soon manage to get a living, and eventually amass fortunes, return to China, purchase a mandarin's button, and become notabilities in the Flowery Land. The *Independence* says that this race of pirates is fast increasing in and around Macao, where their necks are kept safe from the Chinese axe or the English rope, and it urges the Lisbon Government to enforce capital punishment as the only deterrent capable of repressing these dangerous ruffians in their wild career of devastation and plunder. Macao enjoys quite a reputation for being a haunt of pirates. For centuries the little sheltered peninsula has been a nest of sea rovers, and the former "Portuguese navigators and conquerors of India" are said to have worked miracles in clearing the land of those undesirable birds of prey. It would appear, however, that the work of centuries has not been productive of much good, as pirates are now as plentiful in the neighbourhood of the Holy City as when the little rock of Amangao was transformed into a Lusitanian colony and christened holy by the pious pilgrims of lust and rapine who first colonized the land in 1530.

ON the hearing of the suit *The Douglas Steamship Company v. W. Cruickshank*, \$11,54, being resumed this morning at the Summary Court before Mr. A. J. Leach, Acting Police Judge, Mr. Webber, for the defendant, called two more witnesses, Captain D. Scott and Mr. A. Johnston, an engineer surveyor for Lloyds. Both witnesses had, at the request of the defendant, gone on board the *Formosa* when the vessel returned to Hongkong after the explosion. They inspected the damaged parcel room. Mr. Johnston saw the damage done by the explosion, the charred planks, and a mark in the iron work, which looked as if it had been caused by a bullet or some round substance; but he could not form any opinion as to the cause of the explosion. Captain Scott described the position of the carpenter tools as they were fixed into the woodwork in consequence of the explosion, for which he could not account. Mr. J. Grant and Mr. H. Woolnough were then recalled, the former stating that the vessel had not been surveyed in Swatow, and the latter explaining the composition of "flare-up" and their unexplosive nature. Mr. Webber said that concluded his case, and he submitted to the Court that there were three issues to be decided:—(1) whether the parcel shipped by his client caused the explosion; (2) whether its contents were wrongly declared; (3) and whether they were of a dangerous nature. His Honour expressed the opinion that the only issue should be to decide whether the parcel in question was the probable cause of the explosion. Mr. Webber submitted that on the evidence before the Court the articles shipped by defendant were not of a dangerous nature; they were well packed, and could not have caused the explosion, as they had not been intimately mixed. No survey having been made in Swatow, no direct evidence could be produced to show that the explosion was caused by this parcel. There were in the parcel room several other parcels which had not been accounted for, and which might be of as suspicious a character as the one complained of. Mr. Wotton, in replying for the plaintiff Company, submitted three issues for his Honour's decision:—(1) Was the parcel containing substances of a dangerous nature, wrongly declared, in contravention of the regulations incorporated in the parcel receipt? (2) Did the explosion occur on board the *Formosa* on the 26th December? (3) Was the explosion directly produced by the substances contained within the box? He urged that the main point to decide was the 3rd issue; and that if the substances were of a dangerous or damaging nature, the inference and the presumption should be that they alone caused the explosion. His Honour reserved judgment.

We note from a Townsville contemporary that Miss Corrie George, who was leading lady in a dramatic company in Hongkong some fourteen years ago—if we mistake not the lady was "fretting her weary hour" in the City Hall on the night of the great typhoon of 1874—has lately been touring in Queensland.

THE Macao Provincial Council, which is a board composed of the Acting Governor as President, and several officials and prominent citizens as members, have censured the proceedings of the Municipality already referred to in these columns, and ordered that August Corporation to cancel the minutes of the session in which a vote of censure was passed on the Governor for having indulged in certain laudatory remarks regarding several of the professors of St. Joseph's College. The Senate has not yet, we believe, signified its intention of taking any notice of the Provincial Council's decision.

SOMEBODY has condensed the mistakes of life, and arrived at the conclusion that there are fourteen of them. Most people would say, if they told the truth, that there was no limit to the mistakes of life; that they were like the drops in the ocean or the sands on the shore in number, but it is well to be accurate. Here, then, are fourteen great mistakes: It is a great mistake to set up our own standard of right and wrong, and judge people accordingly; to measure the enjoyment of others by our own; to expect uniformity of opinion in this world; to look for judgment and experience in youth; to endeavor to mold all dispositions alike; not to yield to immaterial trifles; to look for perfection in our own actions; to worry ourselves and others with what cannot be remedied; not to alleviate all that needs alleviation as far as lies in our power; not to make allowances for the infirmities of others; to consider everything impossible that we cannot perform; to believe only what our finite minds can grasp; to expect to be able to understand everything. The greatest of mistakes is to live for time alone, when any moment may launch us into eternity.

At the Supreme Court, in Original Jurisdiction, to-day, before Mr. J. Russell, Acting Chief Justice, and a special jury composed of Messrs. A. S. Garfit, H. J. H. Tripp, F. T. P. Foster, J. G. Smith, D. Musso, Dadhulioy, and E. Mackintosh, the suit instituted by U-tz-wan against Mr. J. H. Garfit of Messrs. Meyer & Co., agents for the Russian National Insurance Company, and Mr. E. L. Reuter of Messrs. Pustau & Co., agents for the Fire Insurance Company of Hamburg, was heard. The Attorney General and Mr. A. R. binson, instructed by Mr. Wilkinson, (of Messrs. Caldwell and Wilkinson) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. J. Ackroyd, instructed by Mr. V. Deacon (of Messrs. Wotton and Deacon) for the defendants. Mr. Robinson

having read the pleadings and the answer, the Attorney General said this was a suit brought by U-tz-wan, to recover the value of his insurances with the two Companies, of which defendants were representatives. The plaintiff insured the goods stored in No. 34 Bonham Strand with one of the defendants, on the 25th February, 1887, for \$20,000, and with the other, on the 19th March, 1887, for an equal sum. He carried on the business of a dealer in tea and ginseng at the Man Yuen Tong. Towards the latter part of 1886, U-tz-wan entered into an arrangement with three other persons who jointly subscribed capital for the purchase of ginseng at Vladivostok, and for its conveyance to Hongkong for sale. The business was differently shared by the respective partners; one of them collected the drug at Vladivostok, another brought it down to this colony, and U-tz-wan superintended its sale, receiving a commission of a percent. on the values realised. In January, 1887 a considerable quantity of ginseng and medicine was stored at the Man Yuen Tong, and it was for the destruction of these goods by fire, on the 24th March, that the plaintiff brought his claim against the defendant Companies. In the course of 1886, the plaintiff had made arrangements to carry a tea business on the same premises. The tea was collected from the Hok-shan district and brought down here for storage and sale. The plaintiff entered into partnership with Peng-chong who resided in the Hok-shan district and shipped to him the tea, and the firm bore the style of Peng-yun-Tai, doing business in the same premises as the Man Yuen Tong. Shortly before the first plaintiff was away; his insurance with Meyer's for \$20,000 had expired, on being reminded of it, he came back and effected insurances with Meyer's and Pustau's, his object being to cover the increase of his business owing to the stock of tea and drugs which had been stored at the Man Yuen Tong. Very shortly before the 24th March, tea began to come in considerable quantities. On the evening of the 24th the premises were burnt down, the fire commencing while the plaintiff was downstairs engaged in making up his accounts. The books and papers of the Peng-yun-Tai tea business were kept on the upper floor, while those of the Man Yuen Tong proper, or medicine and drugs business, were on the lower floor. Some of these were rescued, the former being all destroyed. The plaintiff applied to the defendant for payment of his policy values on the morning after the fire; he produced a statement of the drugs and medicine consumed, and referred to the books recording them in the possession of the defendants. As his tea books had been destroyed, plaintiff was unable to make an accurate statement of the quantity lost; but he lost no time in communicating with his Hok-shan partner and in obtaining full particulars of all teas consigned to the Man Yuen Tong, previous to the fire. Having made up an accurate account of these goods he again applied to the defendants for the payment of his claim, but was refused, such payment on the ground of alleged fraud on the Insurance Companies; and hence arose the present suit. The plaintiff was then examined by the Attorney General, and cross-examined by Mr. Ackroyd during the whole morning and afternoon, after which his lordship adjourned the further hearing of the case till to-morrow.

JUVENILE ROWDYISM IN HONGKONG.

We have several times called the attention of the powers that be to that fast developing spirit of rowdiness which unfortunately characterises the juvenile population of this colony. We are not sure whether the educational establishments are to blame for the frequent disgraceful exhibitions of bad conduct by the rising generation, or that the domestic arrangements prevalent are responsible for what is far more than an ordinary nuisance. The latter would appear to have a more direct influence on the respectable cases of rowdiness, which now and then crop up at the Police Court and become public property. If many of our boys were trained in a more civilised style than they apparently are, few indeed, if any, of these revolting scenes would occur, for they would undoubtedly have been nipped in the bud.

The late affray between two Portuguese boys and a Chinese constable at the Public Gardens, shocking and disgusting as it was, was only an instance of many other similar cases which are taking place all over the colony, and in which boys of all nationalities, and particularly the Portuguese boys, are concerned. That a respectable lad, frequenting a reputable school, should be seen stealing flowers from a Public Garden in direct violation of the bye-laws so clearly exhibited at the entrance gate, and that another, a school-boy, should try to defend his comrade by drawing a penknife and inflicting a serious wound on the wrist of the official who was merely discharging his duty, are facts that ought to receive very serious consideration from all concerned. We refrain from mentioning a later case of street fighting which has ended tragically. If this state of things goes on unchecked, uncensored and unpunished, we shall soon have Hongkong a prey to the lowest class of rowdiness.

That passing events are forcibly pointing to such an eventuality, a flying visit to the streets adjoining the Public Schools, and to those where Portuguese families chiefly reside, will convince certain no autist against the Lusitanians who have chosen to fix their residence among us; they certainly contribute, even though indirectly, to the general welfare of this eminently commercial colony; they are a pacific, law-abiding, though not a pre-eminently brilliant portion of the community; there may be any amount of eccentricity and moral perverseness amongst them; but the majority are surely commendable for the purity of their civic and personal characters. The majority of our Portuguese residents represent that able-bodied and able-minded class of Macao residents who have preferred emigration and independence to a life of degradation in the Holy City, and who have left their lazy cousins behind in the ranks of a hungry army, or perishing of inanition in their dead-end-alive paradise.

It is the social education inculcated on the Portuguese youth by their parents that would, in our opinion, be altered for the better. That it is seriously defective, no one will deny; that it allowed to go on following its evil course, it will end in disgraceful eruptions of scandal, rowdiness and crime, is still more certain.

What on earth induces the parents to allow their children to spend the greatest part of their time in the street, where they indulge in all sorts of haramism at all hours of the day, and even during night? What may mamma and aunties be doing, while their sons and daughters, nephews and nieces are dancing and vociferating in the street? Why should they be indulged in the public thoroughfares, to the discomfort and even danger of passers-by? What leads, every morning and evening, so many religious persons of the weaker sex to the Church, where they spend their most precious hours, leaving their families to the tender mercies of servants and animals? And last, but not least, where do the Portuguese youngsters, nay, even the school-boys get their money for the toilettes they often spend whole nights, for their shooting expeditions and other expensive amusements?

We think the Hongkong parents are seriously at fault in the way they educate their offspring, and would suggest to most of them who are not past instruction and learning, the advisability of acquiring for themselves some moral, intellectual and economic qualities which they are expected to instill and to enforce on their children. When such a state of things shall have become a reality then, and not till then, we may rest assured that rowdiness and street obstruction and nuisance from the youthful population of the colony shall disappear.

NEWS BY THE AUSTRALIAN MAIL.

We are indebted for the subjoined items to our Colonial exchanges brought on by the E. and A. Co.'s steamer *Callithrum*, Capt. J. W. B. Darke, which arrived in harbour last night.

LONDON, February 19th.

Mr. Tupper declares that the treaty arrived at by the Anglo-American Fisheries commissioners is a fair and reasonable one. It will probably be ratified immediately after the American presidential election.

Mr. W. O'Brien, M.P., speaking in the House of Commons, violently attacked Mr. Balfour, Chief Secretary for Ireland, and Mr. John Morley, exulted in the failure of the Government to keep order in Ireland.

The proposed new rules of procedure of the House of Commons relegate much to grand committees. They reduce the majority required to bring the closure into force to 100, and authorise the Speaker to suspend or expel any member for grossly unruly conduct.

Mr. Sexton, M.P., who has been seriously ill, has recovered. The Anglo-American Fisheries Commission does not concede the free admission of Canadian fish to America, nor commercial reciprocity. Secretary Bayard says he is satisfied with the result of the commission's labours.

February 19th.

The Berlin officials declare that the prospects of war are now worse than they were. Russia has 800,000 troops massed on the Austro-German frontier.

Germany, in the event of war, will leave France out of account, and cross the Russian frontier.

The German Government agrees with Spain that the latter may occupy Morocco in the event of a European war.

February 19th.

It is said that the Chinese will attempt to regain their province of Manchuria on the Northern frontier, which was annexed lately by Russia, if that Power is involved in a European war.

The Governor of British Guiana has been ordered to the Jordan goldfield, Venezuela. The Cantonal Government of Basle offers to protect the Swiss neutrality, if necessary. The Government of the Swiss Republic reply that the Landsturm will occupy the line of the Jura, but that they will accept assistance if necessary. The King of Holland is ill.

The Government of Italy have entered into an arrangement with that of Spain for the mutual protection of Mediterranean interests.

